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Saturday, August 11, 1906.

#### THE DISPENSARY ISSUE.

While we have published numerous communications on the subject, we have purposely avoided anything like a discussion of the liquor problem in these columns since the dispensary was voted out of Lancaster county last October, for the reason that we have considered the result of that election as tantamount to a settlement of the whiskey question so far as this county is concerned for at least four years—the period fixed by the Brice act, under which such election was held. In a fair and square fight the victory was won by the prohibitionists, and to deprive them of its fruits either by the manufacture of public sentiment antagonistic to prohibition or by legislative enactment would be, in our opinion, manifestly unfair and unjust.

Still, facts and circumstances over which the people of Lancaster county have no control will necessitate a free and full discussion of the liquor problem by the candidates for the legislature in the campaign which opens at Beaufort next Tuesday. The Senator and Representatives who shall be elected this year will, in their capacity as representatives in part of the whole people of South Carolina, and not alone in Lancaster county, be expected to vote for or against the retention of the dispensary as a state institution. The next legislature will have to settle this momentous question one way or another, and the Lancaster delegation will necessarily participate in that settlement—hence the importance of the discussion of the matter in the approaching campaign. We would not be understood, however, as favoring the election of a man to the legislature on a single issue. On the contrary we, for obvious reasons, are opposed to the policy of voting for or against a legislative candidate on account of his views on a particular question, regardless of his character and qualifications or his views on other matters of equal or greater moment. Still, it is well for the people to know how the various candidates stand

on all public questions.

As we understand it, the dispensary issue is now before the people in the shape of two propositions. The one favors the retention and reformation of the state dispensary, while the other favors the abolition of the state dispensary and the adoption of county option as between a county dispensary and prohibition. Why the option is narrowed to the alternative of county dispensary or prohibition is not explained. It should be extended to high license with dispensary restrictions, for there are thousands in the state, the writer among the number, who believe that to be the best plan for the regulation of the liquor traffic.

We do not know of course what positions are going to be taken on the propositions referred to by the candidates in this county for the legislature and, therefore, we cannot be charged with favoring or opposing any particular man in the field. We have our own views, however, and it is our duty as a public journalist to express them, though they may be of little or no value.

We are opposed to the state dispensary, and have been ever since its establishment, for reasons oftentimes stated. And the recent exposures and revelations as to its management have but strengthened us in the conviction that it should be abolished. From the very nature of things, we do not believe it possible for the legislature to alter or amend the law so as to completely eliminate the possibilities for graft and corruption in the conduct and management of the state institution.

We believe in local self-government, and we therefore favor each county settling the liquor question for itself. If, for example, the people of a county, as did those of Lancaster, decide at the ballot box that they want prohibition, then prohibition it should be, at least as long as public sentiment sustains such a law. If, on the other hand, a majority of the people are of the opinion that liquor should be sold under legal restrictions, then they should be allowed to elect which one of the modes permissible by the constitution of the state for sale in a county that they prefer.

Under the constitution the legislature may authorize county dispensaries or the granting of license to individuals to sell under the well known dispensary regulations and restrictions. The latter plan however is not now in much favor, owing to the fact that politicians and others have, purposely or otherwise, confounded it with the old barroom system, which is expressly prohibited by the organic law of the state.

But, as stated, so far as this county is concerned, we regard the liquor question as settled for the present. We do not believe that the legislature has any right to disturb conditions in Lancaster. Even should the legislature repeal the Brice law, such repeal could not affect counties that have held elections under its provisions. To contend otherwise carries with it the admission that the repealing law would be retroactive.

A number of newspapers in the state are waging an active warfare against Senator Tillman, notwithstanding the fact that he is without opposition for re-election. If the purpose of the fight on the senior senator is to weaken his influence with the people, whom he is trying to induce to support the dispensary, the object aimed at is not likely to be attained. On the contrary, the attacks on Tillman, from present indications, will provoke many to vote for the dispensary out of spite.

#### THE NEWS IN BRIEF

The state campaigners made their usual speeches in Yorkville Wednesday. The crowd numbered about 400. . . . The barn and two out-houses of W. A. Drummond, in Laurens county, were destroyed by fire one night this week. . . . Georgia's legislature has appropriated \$30,000 for the state's representation at the Jamestown Exposition. . . . The federal grand jury at Chicago has indicted the Standard Oil Company for receiving rebates from railroads. . . . A brick building in Greenville, occupied by a candy factory, suddenly collapsed Wednesday, causing several thousand dollars' damage. . . . Town Marshal Sam Fulton, of Calera, Ala., was shot and killed Wednesday night by a negro, whom he attempted to arrest for stealing a ride on a freight train. . . . Mayor Rhett, of Charleston, was married in Columbia Wednesday to Miss Blanche Salley. . . . Suspecting foul play, the body of Mrs. Hamilton, of Dillon, which was found in a well last Sunday, was taken from grave Wednesday for examination. It was so badly decomposed, however, that it was impossible to tell cause of death. . . . The stable of Mr. A. G. Morris, of Columbia, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night. Two fine horses perished in the flames. . . . The meeting of state campaigners at Gaffney Thursday was without special interest. . . . Gov. Heyward and staff are at Chickamauga this week, reviewing the 3rd and 1st regiments of the South Carolina infantry. . . . Wednesday's dispatches reported terrible floods in Texas, with many lives lost and heavy loss of property, but later news is to the effect that reports were greatly exaggerated. Ranchmen have lost many head of stock and crops on low lands have been damaged, but no lives lost. . . . The court convened at Salisbury to try the negroes lynched Monday night is still in session. Geo. Hall, charged with being a ringleader of the lynching mob, has been arrested, and his trial began yesterday. The barn of the late Isaac Lylery, one of the parties murdered, was burned Thursday night, presumably by friends of the lynched negroes.

The Rev. R. E. Turnipseed returned this week from Hampton county, where he assisted in a protracted meeting. During his absence from Lancaster—about two weeks—Mrs. Turnipseed visited relatives in Kershaw and Fairfield counties.

## Peoples Supply Co.

is out for business and won't be found asleep when it comes to selling. They are going to push business, and it will be to the interest of every farmer in Lancaster county to make their establishment headquarters for

## General Merchandise

"Quick sales and small profits" will be their motto, and "the same price to all" their rule of business. At present they are closing out the stock of goods purchased from Carnes Bros. Call at the corner store in the Moore block and get some of these bargains. You will always find a warm welcome. Messrs. Jno. A. Cook, J. A. P. Sistare and A. C. Carnes will take pleasure in waiting on you.

## After September 1st

they will open in the Springs block in the store-room now occupied by Welsh & Co. a brand new stock of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Notions, Etc., continuing the grocery in their present quarters. Look for the big sign,

## Peoples Supply Co.

## Reducing Prices and Giving Away

One guaranteed **WATCH** with eye-teet good cry suit of Clothes you buy here worth \$10 or more, during the next **30 DAYS**.

The suit will cost you same or less than anywhere else, or your money back.

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Williams-Hughes Company  
CASH STORE.

## Must Go in 30 Days

I Still Have a Lot of  
**BUGGIES AND WAGONS**

that I guarantee firstclass in workmanship, material and finish, that I must sell in the next 30 days, and want everyone who has an idea of buying or exchanging the old vehicle for a new one, to see what I have and get my prices and terms. I will do you good if you will call and make your wants known.

Also a big line of General Merchandise that I would like to close out and will make a price that will please you.

Yours truly,

**J. J. BLACKMON**